Increase in circulation of Currency Notes

*110. SHRI J. P. JAVALI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last ten years circulation of currency notes has increased considerably,

(b) if so, what is the percentage increase from 1980 to 1990, and

(c) whether such high increase in circulation of notes has created problems of storage in banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The volume of currency notes in circulation has increased considerably during the 10 years period 1980—1990. The total volume of notes has increased from 7980 million pieces in 1980 (March end) to about 20656 million pieces in 1990 (March end), representing a percentage increase in the volume of currency notes during the last 10 years of about 159 per cent.

(c) Because of accumulation of lower denomination notes, some currency chests maintaining branches of Public Sector Banks are experiencing storage problems.

Closure of High Courts due to strike by lawyers

*111 SHRI V. GOPALSAMY·
SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that various High Courts remain closed frequently due to strikes by lawyers,

(b) if so, the number of strikes resorted to by lawyers during the last three years; yearwise and High Courtwise,

(c) whether there is any norms regarding the minimum number of days a High Court is expected to function in a year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) how many High Courts worked more than 200 days in a year during the last three years, yearwise and High Courtwise, and

(f) what steps are being taken to ensure that High Courts work for maximum number of days in a year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY). (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c), (d) and (f) All the High Courts have been advised to regulate their vacations in such a way that the number of working days does not fall below 210 days in a year and the High Courts generally follow the said norm

(e) All the High Courts have worked more than 200 days in a year during the last three years.

Suggestions received from the public for saving foreign exchange and reducing public expenditure

*112. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the country is now in a debt-trap,

(b) whether Government are aware that in 1986 the then Finance Minister had invited suggestions from the public for saving foreign exchange and reducing public expenditure in response to which many valuable suggestions were received but were never acted upon seriously by Government, and

(c) whether Government propose to re-examine and review these suggestions especially those relating to savings on imported fuels?